

OPINION 1621

Osteoglossum Cuvier, 1829 (Osteichthyes, Osteoglossiformes): *Osteoglossum bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829 designated as the type species

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
 - (a) all first reviser actions regarding the specific names *vandellii* Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen *Osteoglossum vandellii*, and *bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829, as published in combination with the manuscript generic name *Ischnosoma*, are hereby set aside, and it is ruled that *bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829 is to be deemed a senior objective synonym of *vandellii* Cuvier, 1829;
 - (b) *Osteoglossum bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829 is hereby designated as the type species of the nominal genus *Osteoglossum* Cuvier, 1829.
- (2) The name *Osteoglossum* Cuvier, 1829 (gender: neuter), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above, *Osteoglossum bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen '*Ischnosoma*' *bicirrhosum* (specific name of the type species of *Osteoglossum* Cuvier, 1829) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *vandellii* Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen *Osteoglossum vandellii*, and as ruled in (1)(a) above to be a junior objective synonym of *bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen '*Ischnosoma*' *bicirrhosum*, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2659

An application for the fixation of *Osteoglossum bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829 as the type species of *Osteoglossum* Cuvier, 1829 was received from Dr M. Kottelat (*Zoologische Staatssammlung, München, Fed. Rep. Germany*) on 28 April 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 46: 130–131 (June 1989). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.

With regard to Proposal (1)(a) of BZN 46: 130, para. 4: a simpler course in this case would have been to suppress the unused specific name *vandellii* Cuvier, 1829 (except for the purposes of homonymy). The author of the application would not accept this suggestion. Both specific names *vandellii* and *bicirrhosum* are available as from Cuvier, 1829 (the latter under Article 11e of the Code), and are thus objective synonyms (i.e. two names for the same taxon). The first reviser action of Agassiz (1831; see para. 2) gave precedence to *vandellii*, but this was never followed and the application sought to follow universal usage by setting aside the action of Agassiz.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1990 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 46: 130–131. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1990 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Nye, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 4: Holthuis, Kabata, Ride and Savage.

Schuster was on leave of absence.

Dupuis abstained because, although he supported the aims of the proposals, he considered that the authorship of the name *bicirrhosum* should be 'Spix in Cuvier, 1829' and not simply 'Cuvier, 1829' [however, Article 50g of the Code specifies the latter citation]. Heppell, Holthuis, Ride and Savage said (in agreement with a comment by the Executive Secretary on the voting papers) that the name *vandellii* should have been suppressed for purposes of priority. Partly for this reason, and partly because since Cuvier (1829) had published two binomina the Commission could not 'confirm *O. bicirrhosum* as the type species of *Osteoglossum* by monotypy' (proposal (1)(b) on BZN 46: 130), Heppell abstained and Holthuis, Ride and Savage voted against. From an entirely formal point of view two new nominal species were established in Cuvier's paper, even though both specific names referred to the same taxon (i.e. they are objective synonyms). The Commission's vote adopted *O. bicirrhosum* as the type species of *Osteoglossum* and the Ruling records this decision.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

bicirrhosum, *Ischnosoma*, Cuvier, 1829, *Le règne animal distribué d'après son organisation pour servir de base à l'histoire naturelle des animaux et d'introduction à l'anatomie comparée*, Ed. 2, vol. 2, p. 328.

Osteoglossum Cuvier, 1829, *Le règne animal distribué d'après son organisation pour servir de base à l'histoire naturelle des animaux et d'introduction à l'anatomie comparée*, Ed. 2, vol. 2, p. 328.

vandellii, *Osteoglossum*, Cuvier, 1829, *Le règne animal distribué d'après son organisation pour servir de base à l'histoire naturelle des animaux et d'introduction à l'anatomie comparée*, Ed. 2, vol. 2, p. 328.